

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ATT 2003-0062

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-6, 9-14, 17-19 AND 21-27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-14, 17-19 and 21-27 as anticipated by US Patent 6,098,107, hereinafter referred to as "Narvaez-Guarnieri."

Responsive to the Examiner, the Applicants herein cancel claims 1-6, 9-14, 17-19 and 21-27 without prejudice. The Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. The Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of any of the canceled claims. Thus, the present rejection with regard to claims 1-6, 9-14, 17-19 and 21-27 is now moot.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 7, 8, 15, 16 and 20 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive to the Examiner, the Applicants have amended claims 7, 8, 15, 16 and 20 to include all of the limitations of the respective independent claims and all additional intervening claims.

In addition, the Applicants have amended the claims to correct various antecedent basis issues and to ensure consistency in the claim limitations. No new matter is added. The Examiner is encouraged to review these amended claims to ensure that these allowable claims comply with the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. As such, the

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Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 8, 15, 16 and 20 are now in condition for allowance and request the objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

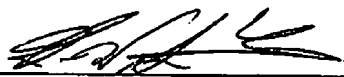
Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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